1. **Boldenone: Information on the follow-up to the meeting of the experts on 13 May 2003**

   The Commission informed the Member States that a new meeting of experts has been scheduled for 30 September 2003.

2. **Information and discussion on Malachite green in fishery products**

   The Commission reported that recently 10 notifications concerning malachite green in salmon imported from Chile had been transmitted via the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF). The Commission confirmed that consignments could be sent back to the country of origin provided that guarantees prevented re-import into the EU. Chile assured the Commission that it could provide respective guarantees. It also has promised to step-up its controls with respect to malachite green. However, Chile also pointed out that they perceive the food control on malachite green as arbitrary because of the difference in the limits of detection used by the Member States.

   The Commission proposed to set a Minimum Required Performance Limit (MRPL) for malachite green according to Commission Decision 2002/657/EC and to use this as an ‘action limit’ (for the rejection of consignments). The expert working group confirmed that an MRPL of 2 µg/kg (part per billion - ppb) proposed by the responsible Community Reference Laboratory in Fougère, France, was feasible.

   It was stressed that this approach would also be a model solution with respect to other substances for which no permitted limit has been established. The considerations underlying this proposal had been communicated in a working document before the meeting.

   The Danish and German delegations proposed further expert consultations.

   The Dutch Delegation proposed a risk evaluation by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). The Commission pointed out that according to Article 63 of the Food Law (2002/178/EC) pharmacologically active substances like malachite
green fell within the remit of the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMEA).

Replying to a question of the French delegation, the Commission re-emphasised that the establishment of an MRPL and its use as an ‘action limit’ did not have any influence on the legal status of the pharmaceutically active substance in the EU. The legal status is determined by requirements for authorisation of veterinary medicinal products according to Directive 2001/82/EC (in particular its Article 6) and the prohibition of its use according to Regulation 2377/90 (in particular its Article 14). It is accordingly an offence to use malachite green in food producing animals in the Community.

It was moreover pointed out that an alternative substance was available for the treatment of fertilised fish eggs against fungal infections: Bronopol. This substance has been introduced in Annex II of Regulation 2377/90. It has been authorised in the United Kingdom according to Article 26 of Directive 2002/82/EC and is marketed by the pharmaceutical company Novartis under the trade name Pyceze. It was also pointed out that other Member States could use Article 7 of Directive 2001/82/EC to authorise the product nationally.

On request of the German delegation, the Commission again confirmed that the use of malachite green was also forbidden on embryonic eggs of fish. The issue had already been discussed in the Veterinary Pharmaceutical Committee on 12 June 2003.

The Commission announced that it would prepare an amendment to Decision 2002/657/EC to include a performance limit for the analysis of malachite green in aquaculture products of 2 µg/kg. As regards the fate of foods where malachite green was found, the Member States asked the Commission to also propose a harmonised approach for the evaluation of consignments.

3. Information and discussion on fraudulent certification of consignments of shrimps from Philippines for import into the EU

The Commission informed the Member States of a 17 September 2003 letter from the Philippines authorities proposing a 6-months moratorium on the shipment of sea shrimps from the Philippines to the EU, following and illegal and unauthorised exportation of marine shrimps. The Philippines authorities took this decision as they have for the time being no assurance that the smuggling of marine shrimps to Europe will stop. The moratorium shall run from 18 September 2003 until 18 February 2004.

4. Information and discussion on the mandate for the Commission to send annually the residues plans of the Member States to Canada within the framework of the veterinary agreement

All Member States agreed to the transmission by the Commission of their residue plans for 2003 to the Canadian authorities.
5. **Information from Portugal on nitrofurans in poultry: lifting of measures**

The Portuguese delegation distributed the final report about the findings of nitrofurans in the poultry sector. The last positive result of residues of nitrofuran in poultry meat was found in the second week of May 2003. A total of 176 farms were put under restriction (171 poultry, 1 pig, 2 rabbit and 2 fish farms). About 1.5 million poultry animals were destroyed and 250 tons of poultry meat were recalled from the market at both wholesale and retail level. Official inspections were carried out at all operators of the food chain including manufacturers of feedingsstuffs, premixes and veterinary medicines. Afterwards, the systematically negative results are firm indicators that the incident was ended by mid May 2003. This is the reason why the Portuguese authorities had lifted the obligation of providing export certificates for poultry.

6. **Information from Portugal on the BSE situation**

The Portuguese delegation reported on their epidemiological situation for what pertains to BSE. The BSE eradication programme has been in place in 1993 and the BSE control programme since 1996. The Portuguese delegation expressed their belief that Portugal respect all the criteria set by the Office International des Etiazootties (OIE) concerning BSE and that the embargo on beefmeat from Portugal should be revised. The Commission took note of the wishes of the Portuguese delegation and stressed that an FVO inspection would have to take place before any decision is taken, in order to ensure that the Portuguese programmes is properly implemented (especially with regards to the effective collection of animal carcasses).

7. **Information on the outcome of the controls carried out by the Member States on nitrofurans in egg products**

The Commission presented the results of the survey carried out by the Member States and distributed an interim report. Most of the controls carried out by the Member States have concerned the national production. It appears that the Member States have found most of their positive results in samples originating from India. The Commission encouraged the Member States for which the results are not yet available to submit them as soon as possible and in any event well in time before the next meeting, in order to have a complete overview of the situation.

8. **Information and discussion on the report of a mission carried out in the United Arab Emirates from 1 to 6 February 2003 concerning the conditions of production and export of fishery products to the European Union**

The Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) presented to the Member States the report of a mission carried out in the United Arab Emirates from 1 to 6 February 2003 concerning the conditions of production and export of fishery products to the European Union.
9. **Distribution pour information / Distribution for information:**

- Report of a mission carried out in Poland from 23 to 27 June 2003 in order to review the plan submitted by the Polish Authorities for the upgrading of poultry meat, egg products and fishery products establishments and the organisation of pre-slaughter inspection and post-mortem inspection of poultry [DG(SANCO)/9136/2003-MR]

9.a **Information on the Rules of Procedures of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health**

The Commission invited the Member States to read the Rules of Procedures of the SCFCAH, to be presented for an opinion of the Committee at the October 2003 meeting of the General Section.

10. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Decision approving certain treatments to inhibit the development of pathogenic micro-organisms in bivalve molluscs and marine gastropods**


**Vote:** unanimous vote in favour

11. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a Draft Commission Regulation laying down procedures for veterinary checks at Community border inspection posts on products imported from third countries and repealing Commission Decision 93/13/EEC (Document SANCO/10232/2003, Rev. 3)**

The Commission presented to the Member States a Draft Commission Regulation laying down procedures for veterinary checks at Community border inspection posts on products imported from third countries and repealing Commission Decision 93/13/EEC.

**Vote:** postponed until 21-22 October 2003 SCFCAH

12. **Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Regulation approving the national scrapie control programme of certain Member States, and defining additional guarantees, and granting**
derogations concerning breeding programmes for TSE resistance in sheep pursuant to Decision 2003/100/EC (Document SANCO/2607/2003, Rev. 4)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Regulation approving the national scrapie control programme of certain Denmark and Sweden, and defining additional guarantees, and granting derogations concerning breeding programmes for TSE resistance in sheep pursuant to Decision 2003/100/EC.

Vote: 79 votes in favour, 8 against (qualified majority)


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Regulation amending Annexes VII, VIII and IX to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the trade and import of ovine and caprine animals and the measures following the confirmation of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in bovine, ovine and caprine animals.

Vote: Unanimous vote in favour

Declaration of the Commission:

“The Commission confirms that it will keep the TSE eradication measures for goats laid down in annex VII of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 (as amended) under review, particularly in regard to the development of new diagnostic methods with might be used to aid disease eradication and public health protection.”

14. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending for the second time Decision 2003/42/EC as regards its date of application (Document SANCO/10459/2003)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Decision postponing the entry into force until 31 December 2003 of Decision 2003/42/EC, amending Directive 92/118/EEC with regard to the requirements for collagen and laying down specific health conditions and certification requirements for collagen and raw material for collagen production. The postponement will allow to conclude the administrative procedures necessary to amend the Annex to the EC/US Veterinary Agreement, in order to reflect the equivalence achieved between the relevant US and EC provisions.

Vote: 81 votes in favour, 3 abstentions, 3 votes absent (Qualified majority)


Following a 10 April 2003 opinion of the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC), the occurrence of BSE in native cattle of Costa Rica may not be excluded. Therefore, Costa Rica is no longer exempted from the TSE-related trade conditions for live bovine animals and products of bovine, ovine and caprine origin.

Following a 6 March 2003 opinion of the SSC, the occurrence in native cattle of New Caledonia is highly unlikely. Therefore, New Caledonia is included in the list of countries exempted from certain TSE-related trade conditions for live bovine animals and products of bovine, ovine and caprine origin.

**Vote: unanimous vote in favour**

16. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from Cap Vert (Document SANCO/10453/2003, Rev. 1)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Decision laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from Cape Verde and approving the Salsesimbra Lda (Palmeira, Ilha do Sal) and Frescomar ITS (Mindelo, San Vincente) establishments.

**Vote: unanimous vote in favour**

17. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from Belize (Document SANCO/10444/2003)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Decision laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from Belize and approving the Nova Companies (Belize) Limited (Ladyville) establishment.

**Vote: unanimous vote in favour**

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Decision laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from French Polynesia and approving the Tahiti Island Fish (Faaa, Tahiti) and the Pêche logistique service (Taravao, Tahiti) establishments, as well as the Taura’a-Tua (Papeete, Tahiti), Mauitahi (Papeete, Tahiti), Vini-Vini VI (Papeete, Tahiti), Moorea Rava’ai II (Papeete, Tahiti), Moana-Tae (Papeete, Tahiti), Fetu Ura (Papeete, Tahiti), Fetu Tea II (Papeete, Tahiti) and Ihitua (Papeete, Tahiti) freezer vessels.

Vote: unanimous vote in favour

19. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from United Arab Emirates (Document SANCO/10446/2003)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Decision laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from United Arab Emirates and approving the Asmak Seafood Processing Co (Dubai), Magenta Fish and Seafood Supply (Dubai), Gulf Seafood LLC (Dubai), Seville Products Ltd. (Sharjah) and Shaheen Fisheries and Meats LLC (Ajman) establishments.

Vote: unanimous vote in favour

20. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from Netherlands Antilles (Document SANCO/10447/2003)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Decision laying down specific conditions for imports of fishery products from Netherlands Antilles and approving the Albacora Caribe (Overseas Tuna Company N.V., Willemstad), Faro Villano (Overseas Tuna Company N.V., Willemstad), Intertuna Uno (Intertuna N.V., Willemstad), Intertuna Dos (Intertuna N.V., Willemstad), Albacora Diez (Overseas Tuna Company N.V., Willemstad), Albacora Nueve (Overseas Tuna Company N.V., Willemstad), Patudo (Overseas Tuna Company N.V., Willemstad), Castel Braz (Klipper S.A.R.L., Willemstad), Lio I – Intrepido Dos (Transgoa Fleet N.V., Willemstad), Lio II – Intrepido Tres (Transgoa Fleet N.V., Willemstad), Artza (Atuna N.V., Willemstad) and Intertuna Tres (Intertuna N.V.) freezer vessels.

Vote: unanimous vote in favour

21. Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 97/296/EC drawing up the list of
third countries from which the import of fishery products is authorised for human consumption, with respect to Cap Vert, Belize, French Polynesia, United Arab Emirates and Netherlands Antilles (Document SANCO/10448/2003)

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 97/296/EC drawing up the list of third countries from which the import of fishery products is authorised for human consumption, with respect to Cap Vert, Belize, French Polynesia, United Arab Emirates and Netherlands Antilles.

**Vote: unanimous vote in favour**


The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Regulation implementing Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 as regards means of disposal or uses of animal by-products, approving the processes of alkaline hydrolysis, biodiesel production and combustion of animal fat in a thermal boiler for the treatment and disposal of Category 1 material, as well as the processes of alkaline hydrolysis, high pressure high temperature hydrolysis, high pressure hydrolysis biogas, biodiesel production, Brookes gasification, and combustion of animal fat in a thermal boiler for the treatment and use or disposal of Categories 2 or 3 material.

**Vote: Postponed until 21-22 October 2003 SCFCAH**

**Declaration of the Commission:**


Article 4 of this draft Commission Regulation provides for rules on the approval of plants using these new processes.

The Commission considers that, when approving plants using any of the processes described in Annexes I to VI of that draft Regulation, the competent authority should approve the relevant parts of the plants:

(a) As processing plants taking into account the requirements laid down in Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002, as appropriate, in the case of the processes described in Annexes I, II, III, IV and VI;
(b) Where applicable, as biogas plants taking into account the requirements laid down in Article 15 of that Regulation, as appropriate, in the case of the processes described in Annexes I and III;

(c) As oleochemical plants taking into account the requirements laid down in Article 14, paragraphs 1, 2(b) to (d) and 4 of that Regulation in the case of the processes described in Annex IV;

(d) As incineration and co-incineration plants taking into account the requirements laid down in Article 12 of that Regulation, as appropriate, in the case of the processes described in Annexes V & VI and in accordance with this regulation.”

23. Exchange of views and possible technical vote on a draft Commission Decision on transitional sanitary and certification conditions under Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 as regards importation of technical gelatine intended for the photographic industry

The Commission presented to the Member States a draft Commission Decision on transitional sanitary and certification conditions under Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 as regards importation of technical gelatine intended for the photographic industry from Japan into The Netherlands (Rotterdam), France (Le Havre) and the United Kingdom (Liverpool & Feliewstowe), as well as from the United States of America into France (Le Havre) and the United Kingdom (Liverpool & Feliewstowe)

Vote: 67 votes in favour, 20 votes against (Qualified majority)


Vote: 77 votes in favour, 10 abstentions (qualified majority)

24. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision approving on behalf of the European Community amendments to the annexes to the Agreement between the European Community and the United States of America on sanitary measures to protect public and animal health in trade in live animals and animal products (SANCO/10450/2003)

This point was postponed until the 21-22 October 2003 SCFCAH.
25. Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Decision on health certificates for the importation of animal products from the United States (SANCO/10451/2003)

This point was postponed until the 21-22 October 2003 SCFCAH.

26. Miscellaneous - Divers

- **Scope of residue monitoring plans submitted in accordance with Directive 96/23/EC**
  The British Delegation asked for clarification on the scope of residue monitoring plans as regards aquaculture products. Due to lack of time, this issue will be raised in the group of experts on residues.

- **Detection of semicarbazide in various foods**
  The Commission informed the Committee that this issue would be on the agenda of the 3 October 2003 SCFCAH.

- **The Commission recalled that Decision 97/20/EC provides that the abductor muscles of pectinidae other than aquaculture animals completely separated from the viscerae and gonads could be imported form countries other than those listed in the Annex to the mentioned decision.**

  At this point the Commission recognised that it should be necessary to modify the title of certain health certificates which accompany these products. Nevertheless, in view of the general revision of the certificates that will be necessary after the adoption by the Council of the proposals on hygiene currently on discussion, the Commission has the intention to revise them only after the proposals are adopted.

  Member States are therefore advised to continue to accept the existing health certificates, as approved in the specific Decision, when accompanied by the mentioned abductor muscles of pectinidaes, even if in the title of these certificates is mentioned: "With the exclusion of bivalve molluses in whatever form".

- **The Commission informed the Member States that the Thai authorities had put their official health certificates on their website and proposed to give access to the Commission and the various European Border Inspection Posts (BIPs), in order to prevent the entry of products originating from Thailand into the EU with false certificates.**
N.B. The proposals on which the Committee expressed an opinion are subject to a defined procedure in relation to the formal adoption by the Commission.

Mission reports are available on the Internet at the following address: http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/inspections/vi/reports/index_en.html

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